

Distressed CHILD,

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The Cruel Uncle :

BEING

A True and Dismal Relation of one Esq. *Salmes* of *Beversley* in *Yorkshire*; who dying, left an only Infant Daughter, of the Age of two Years, to the care of his own Brother; who with many Oaths, Vows, and Protestations, promised to be loving to her; but her Father was no sooner Dead, but out of a wicked Covetousness of the Child's Estate of three hundred Pounds a Year, carry'd it into a Wood, and there put it in a Willow-Tree to starve it to Death: Where a Gentleman and his Man being a Hunting two Days after, found it half Famished, having gnawed its own Flesh and Fingers ends in a dreadful manner.

With an Account how this Cruel Uncle to hide his Villany, had caused the Child's Effigies to be buried in Wax, and made a great Funeral, as if it had been really Dead: With the manner of the whole discovery by a Dream, and taking the Wax-Child out of the Grave.

With the Uncle's Apprehension, Examination, and Confession before Justice *Seabbs*, and his Commitment to Goal, in order to be Try'd the next Assizes, for that barbarous Action.

Note, This Relation will be attested at the Three-Nuns, and Rummer-Tavern near Aldgate. As also at the Three-Cops in Aldersgate-Street, by the Huntington-Carriers, &c.

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The Inhumane Brother, &c.

*The Love of Money is the Root of all Evil;
and is the Cause of the most barbarous
Vices, as may be seen by this following
Example.*

IN the Town of *Beverly* in *Yorkshire*,
about two Months ago, there lived
one *Squire Solmes*, a very *Honest Gentle-*
man of about *Three Hundred per Ann.*
His *Wife* dying, by whom he had one
little *Daughter* about two *Years* of *Age*,
he continued some Months a sorrowful
Widower, he cou'd not well enjoy him-
self after the *Loss* of his *Dear Spouse*.
And it so happened, that partly out of
Grief, partly from a violent *Fever*, he
was brought to his *Bed* of *Sickness*,
where he continued not long, for he died
within a *Fortnight* after he was taken
by

by that Fever. He expressed a great concern for little Girl; and therefore call'd his Brother, a Gentleman that lived about 14 Miles from him, and begged him to take care of his Daughter upon him. Brother, said he, *I leave with you the Dearest Thing that I have in the World, my little Daughter, and with her to you I intrust my Estate; manage it for her Use, and take care of her Education in Vertue and Religion; use her as if she were your own, and for my Sake see her married to an Honest Country Gentleman.*

All which was faithfully promised by the Brother: Thus when all things were settled, the Gentleman dies, and the Brother takes Home the Child to his House, and for some time us'd her kindly. But at the last the Devil of Covetousness possess'd him; nothing run in his Mind so much as making away with the Child, and so possess the Estate. After many ways, he at last concluded to take her with him, and hide her in a hollow Tree: Which
one

one Morning he effected, and left the poor Infant with her Mouth stopp'd that she might not cry. For he had so much Grace, not actually to Murder her, therefore he left her alive in the hollow of the Tree; and the better to hide the Matter, gave out that the Child was Dead; and therefore caus'd an Effigie of Wax to be made, laid it in a Coffin, and a Shrowd, and made a great Funeral for the Child. Thus the Effigie was buried, and no notice at all taken of the Matter. At the same time, a Neighbouring Gentleman Dream'd, That that Day he shou'd see something that wou'd sufficiently astonisht him. He told it to his Lady, who dissuaded him from going a Hunting that Day, but he was resolved, not giving any credit to Dreams, and so takes Horse in the Morning: As he was a Hunting, he happen'd to be in the Wood where the Child was. And as he was Riding by the Tree, his Horse gave a great start, so that he had lik'd to have fallen down; and turning about to see what was the matter, he

he saw some thing stir in a hole; and being inquisitive to know the Cause, his Dream presently came in his Head. And therefore he calls his Man, and bids him examine what was in the hole: Who having search'd the Tree, discovers the Child in the Tree. He took it out, and his Master carried it to his Lady almost Dead: he told her his Dream was out, declaring how he found the Child, and begg'd her to take Care of it. The Child was reviv'd, and in a little time brought to its self again; but they could not imagine whose it was; till at last it happen'd that some Women came to the Gentleman's House a Singing at *Christmas*; and seeing the Child, knew it, and declar'd whose it was, and that it was suppos'd to be dead and buried. The Gentleman goes and prevails with the Minister of the Parish to have the Grave opened, and found the Waxen-Effigie of the Child in the Grave. He went to the Justice of the Peace, to whom he declared the matter; who sent his Warrant for the Child's Trustee: Who being convicted of
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the matter, was not able to deny it, but confess'd all the business. But seeing the Child was alive, 'tis suppos'd he will not be tried for his Life; but 'tis thought a severe Punishment will be inflicted on him; and the Justice appointed the Gentleman that found the Child, to be its Trustee, till the *Affizes*. The Child is now at the Gentleman's House, who loves it as if it was his own; for he has no Children himself, and is a Man of a good Estate, and is likely to augment very much the Child's Fortune.

POSTSCRIPT.

WE have this further Account from *Hutington* concerning the Child aforesaid. That when the Gentleman and his Man found it in the hollow Tree, it was almost quite Dead, it having been put there by the Inhumane Uncle two Days before, so that the poor innocent Creature for meer Hunger, had in a lamentable manner suck'd and knaw'd its own Fingers ends till the Blood ran about its Cheeks and Mouth to such a degree, that when it was brought to the Gentleman's Lady, she fell in a Swoon at the sight

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The manner of the whole Discovery of the Uncle's Wickedness, was thus: He having some time before got the Child's Effigies exactly made in Wax, as abovesaid, gave out the Child was Dead; and thereupon bought Mourning, and buried the said Counterfeit Corps in a Stately and Sumptuous manner: And he being a Rich Man none in the least had any Suspicion of his being Guilty of so barbarous a Wickedness, as to make away with his Brother's Child: So that had not Divine Providence, in almost a Miraculous manner preserv'd the Child's Life, it would have been impossible by humane Endeavours to have detected him of the Crime. However, after he thought himself past danger, a Woman that had often seen the said Child at his House, happened after to come by the Gentleman's Door some days after it was found, and seeing it in the Maid's Arms, (the Gentleman being by) says she, *That Child is as like Squire Solmes's little Daughter as one Apple is like another; and further added, that if (quoth she) I had not seen his Child buried some days ago, I should have positively sworn it had been the same Child;* Upon which the Gentleman called her into his House, and told her the whole Story, how and where he found it almost starv'd to Death, in a hollow Oaken-Tree as he was a Hunting; so that getting Knowledge of the Woman where Mr. Solmes Liv'd, he was first of all Apprehended and kept in Custody till the Grave was opened, at which time the Wax Child was taken out, to the Uncle's great Shame and Confusion; and the more, when the Gentleman told him how he found the living Child in the hollow Tree as he was Hunting: Upon which he confess'd the whole matter

matter to the Justice, and wrung his Hands, and lamented after a sad and dismal manner, for his being guilty of such a monstrous Barbarity to his own Flesh and Blood.

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